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ABSTRACT

Despite increasing and widespread access to more information, finding published research, studies, and literature in the field of education and psychology has become more complex. This paper demonstrates how to access published literature in various formats, including books, journal articles, conference proceedings, lesson plans, media, Web sites, reports, studies, statistics, and laws. Key online databases (found on the "hidden Web"), where to find them, and how to use them are identifies. Key Internet resources, including government, organizational, and commercial Web sites, are recommended. The paper includes tips for target searching, guidelines for evaluation of search results, and how to best utilize electronic and contemporary libraries in a public, school, or academic setting. (Author/MES)

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Abstract of Paper and/or Poster Session

Despite increasing and widespread access to more information, finding published research, studies and literature in the field of education and psychology has become more complex. This paper/presentation demonstrates how to access published literature in various formats, including books, journal articles, conference proceedings, media, websites, reports, studies, statistics and laws. The author identifies key online databases (found on the "hidden web"), where to find them and how to use them. Key Internet resources, including government, organizational and commercial websites, are recommended. The paper includes tips for target searching, guidelines for evaluation of search results, and how to best utilize electronic and contemporary libraries in a public, school or academic setting.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Despite increasing and widespread access to more information, via the Internet, media and print publishing, finding published, quality research, studies and literature has become more complex. The field of education alone has produced a myriad of materials that are available in a wide variety of formats. Books and journal articles abound. Lesson plans are published and available on the Internet – if you know where to look. Studies, reports, conference proceedings, published both in print and online, continue to multiply. Federal, state and local government, all keenly interested in education, produce data, statistics, studies, and reports, not only on the Internet, but also in print. Publication of laws and regulations governing many policies and procedures in education persists.

How do you begin in-depth research or where do you start to prepare a literature review about an issue? You will start with a trip to a local library to explore its print and online collections. To which library should you go and for what should you ask once you get there?

1. What's in a Library.

Libraries today are active learning centers. Any student returning to higher education in the past five years will agree. While books still abound, large sections of contemporary libraries are filled with computer terminals. Card catalogs are mostly artifacts of the past, and their former furnishings now dot antique stores and Restoration Hardware. Patrons ask for both books and online information. They want to know how the Internet works and what is available on it. They discover databases of information and how they work. For those familiar with the Internet, they learn how to find what they can't find with an Internet search engine such as Google. Younger Internet users are amazed that the world of knowledge is actually larger than a commercial search engine's (i.e., Yahoo) scope. A high school student recently came to the reference desk exclaiming: "My friend says there's actually stuff here that I can't get on my computer at home. I didn't believe him, so I've come here to find out. What could you possibly have that I can't get from my PC?" He was a budding college student! I answered, "Why, libraries are treasure troves! You're friend is correct."

In addition to books and magazines in print, video and audio materials libraries have a wide selection of online resources that are only accessible at a library. These resources are commonly known as the "Hidden Web." It is on the hidden web that researchers find scholarly, reliable and well-respected literature on any given topic. Some online resources that are available only for a fee on the Internet, are available free to library cardholders. Some online resources may not even be found using a commercial Internet search engine, but are available at a library that subscribes to them. Each library can tell you what its online collection includes. Ask a reference librarian or check the library's website which will link to its online collection. To gain access to databases, be prepared to provide the patron identification given to you when you became a library cardholder.

a. **Academic libraries**. Generally, academic libraries have the largest selection of online, media and print materials, with the exception of large urban public libraries. Public universities and colleges usually allow all patrons, whether they are students, staff or faculty of the university or not, to use all available databases on their premises. Check-out and online access privileges vary according to the type of cardholder a patron is. Certain

restrictions apply if license agreements limit access to a specific category of users. To find a state university near you, use an Internet search engine, such as Google (www.google.com), entering the name of your state, and the words "university" and "library" in the search box.

b. **Public libraries**. Most U.S. public libraries have a selection of online databases that may be accessed while in the library. Some provide home access to library cardholders. Online collections may include news and journal articles; databases on specific topics such as business or investing, health; government information; information for students and teachers; and online books. Public libraries also have the largest circulating collection of audio and videotapes and CDs. To find a public library near you, use an Internet search engine, such as Google (www.google.com), entering the name of your town or county, and the words "public library" in the search box.

c. **School libraries.** School libraries vary widely in resources. Many schools have very small collections due to funding and therefore depend on local public libraries. Those that have better funding may have access to databases for students and teachers. Most will have a collection of books, media and print materials, PCs for Internet use, and an online catalog.

d. **Special libraries**. Special libraries are those of private organizations, businesses, nonprofit organizations or governmental entities. Law and medical libraries are special libraries. Some are public, such as a local county law library or a district hospital library. Some may be accessible to members only and some may be accessible for a small fee. Examples include the American Philatelic Society Library (http://www.stamplibrary.org/) that collects materials on stamp collecting, the Foundation Center Library (http://fdncenter.org/learn/librarian/index.html) that collects information and resources on grants and grantmaking, and The Antiquarian Society Library (http://www.americanantiquarian.org/) that collects research materials on early American literature and culture. All of these libraries provide online librarian reference services. Ask a local public or academic librarian for a directory of other special libraries by topic and location. For special libraries on the web, visit Libweb at (http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Libweb/usa-special.html).

2. Define Your Query

Any research project begins with a query, a question or questions that need to be answered. Take time to brainstorm words and concepts related to the query. This will pay dividends later in the search process.

Use a Thesaurus. When doing a subject or keyword search, if the words you first use produce poor results, consult a thesaurus to find synonyms and related, broader or narrower terms. For example, when looking for information on American Indians, you may need to use the term Native Americans (related term), or the name of a tribe such as Pueblo (narrower term). All libraries using the Library of Congress classification system will have copies of the Library of Congress Subject Headings Volumes A-Z, which is an excellent thesaurus. Others include the classic Roget's thesaurus, the Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors, the Thesaurus of Psychological Index terms (American Psychological Association), the Contemporary Thesaurus of Social Science Terms and Synonyms, and the Thesaurus of

Sociological Indexing Terms. Most major academic libraries will have the above thesauri, as well as others that list terms specific to a particular field. Consult with an academic reference librarian to locate the best thesaurus for your subject.

Once you have a set of search terms or descriptors for your query, the next step is to search for books, journal articles, reports, conference proceedings, dissertations and other types of materials on your topic.

3. How to Access Books.

OPACs. To find books and other library materials use the library's online public access catalog ("OPAC"). OPACs have replaced card catalogs over the past decade. Some small rural or special libraries, however, may still use a card catalog system. Librarians take pleasure in giving their OPACs unique names, often reflective of the culture of their constituency. For example, Mills College, a women's college in California, named their catalog Minerva, after a female goddess.

OPACs locate books in more ways than card catalogs once did. OPACs will search by title, author, subject, keyword, call number, type of material and more, depending on the software program on which its structure is built. Ask a librarian to show you how to use your library's OPAC. Though OPACs will differ from library to library, most will have the same basic features. Some will even link directly to online full-text materials, including the new E-books. Many OPACs will link you directly to the full-text of an E-book once it authenticates your patron identification.

4. How to Find Journal Articles.

As a researcher you will need to learn how to find journal articles. Although books continue to be an important part of a researcher's bibliography, journal articles demonstrate the thoroughness of a scholar's research. Articles show trends, varying viewpoints, and up-to-date information.

Use an Index. An index will point you to a journal article, a book, a dissertation, a report or study that concerns your topic. Most indexes today are online.

Online Indexes and Databases. Online indexes are finding tools. The terms index and database are often used interchangeably today because, in many cases, an online index will provide access to a full-text article through an online database. This means you will be able not only to identify a citation to a relevant article, but also to download the whole article and print it directly from the library terminal or your PC. Some online index/databases provide abstracts and citations, and some will provide only citations, i.e., the title of the article, its author, publisher, volume/issue and date. Many provide a combination of citations, abstracts and full-text availability.

Finding the full-text article. Once you have identified a citation to a relevant journal article, you will need to determine if the library's collection includes the issue of the journal

you need. The article may be available electronically either as an online journal alone or as one of many journals aggregated by a publisher in a database. The journal also may not be accessible electronically, i.e., it may only be available in print.

To find the journal, search for the journal title in either (1) the library's OPAC or (2) the library's online journal list. Locate both the OPAC and the library's electronic journal list on the library webpage. From the OPAC or the electronic journal list, determine whether the library subscribes to an electronic version of the journal, collects the journal in print, or licenses access to the journal's articles through an electronic, full-text database. Ask the reference librarian for assistance in determining what is available. If the journal is available only in print, look for the library call number in the OPAC, so you can find the journal on the shelf. The electronic journal list and/or the OPAC should connect you directly to any version of the journal, permitting you to search for the issue and article you need.

Online full-text article databases. Although by no means are all journal articles available online, thousands of full-text journal articles are available either via an electronic journal subscription or via an aggregating online database. As stated above, aggregating databases act as indexes providing citations and/or abstracts of literature on topics. They also function as electronic repositories of the full-text articles that they index. Databases may also provide citations to books, reports, dissertations and media presentations.

If you have a journal article citation, look for a link on the database homepage to a list of journals included. Follow the links through to the journal, then to the article. Alternatively, to search for articles or other literature on a topic, by a specific author, or published by a particular organization, enter search terms (i.e., title or subject keywords, author's name, publisher's name) in the search box and click the search command button. Once the list of citations appears, look for a hyperlink to take you through to full-text, or in some cases, to the OPAC if full-text is not available.

Social Science Databases. There are many excellent databases available to guide users to current, scholarly, peer-reviewed and popular literature on social science topics. Some are indexes, some provide abstracts and some offer indexing, abstracts and full-text access. Several of the leading social science databases include:

- **ERIC**. The Department of Education's index/database to educational journals, reports, studies, books, lesson plans and other materials.
- **Epsyche**. Citations to scholarly literature in the field of psychology.
- **Family & Society Studies Worldwide**. Citations to and abstracts of articles, books, grey literature and more in social sciences, including education and family and gender studies.
- **Cognet**. Citations to and abstracts of scholarly literature in cognition and brain science.
- **CQ Researcher**. In-depth full-text studies of current issues, including education.
- **Index to Current Urban Documents**. Guide to the reports of local government, civic and research organizations, libraries, and planning agencies.

- **Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts**. Citations to and abstracts of articles on linguistics and language.
- **Multicultural Education Research Abstracts**. Citations to and abstracts of international research in education.
- **PsycInfo**. The American Psychological Association's index to and abstracts of scholarly literature (books, journal articles, dissertations) in the field of psychology.
- **Sociological Abstracts**. Citations to and abstracts of articles, books, dissertations on sociology and behavioral science.
- **Social Services Abstracts**. Citations to and abstracts of articles on social welfare, human services, community development.
- **PAIS International**. Citations to and abstracts of articles on social and political issues. Excludes news. Produced by the Public Affairs Information Service.

Multi-subject Databases. The following are several index/databases that include the social sciences, arts and humanities, and sciences. All function as indexes and each provides at least partial full-text access to the articles indexed.

- **Ebsco Host**. General interest multi-subject index to and database of news, journal and popular magazine articles.
- **First Search**. OCLC's indexes to and databases of multi-subject journal articles, library holdings, government documents and conference proceedings.
- **Lexis-Nexis-Academic**. News, Legal, Statistical, Medical, Business and Government information database.
- **MAGS**. Gale's InfoTrac Magazine and Journal Article multi-subject index and database to citations and full-text articles.
- **ProQuest**. Multi-subject index to and database of journals, news, popular magazines.
- **SIRS**. General interest multi-subject index/database to news, journals and popular magazines.
- **Web of Knowledge**. Indexes to and abstracts of social science, arts and humanities and science articles.

Printed Journals. If the article is not available electronically, you will need to find out if your library subscribes to the print version of the journal. Your best first stop is, of course, to consult with a knowledgeable librarian. Search for the journal title on the library website in the library catalog and in the online journal list. Write down the call number to find the journal on the library shelves. If the article is not available in any format, ask a librarian for help in locating the article through the library's interlibrary loan service.

ERIC - Finding Journals in Education. To find journal articles in the field of education, the primary finding tool is ERIC ("Educational Resources Information Center"), produced by the U.S. Department of Education. ERIC indexes journal articles, providing citations and abstracts only, not the full-text. Such citations are given ERIC identifying numbers in the format "EJ123456." For a list of education journals that ERIC indexes, see Ask ERIC (http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric). Click on "List of Journals Abstracted." This is probably the most comprehensive list of education journals available.

Finding the full-text version of journal articles after you have identified a citation in ERIC takes several steps. To find the full-text journal article, you will need to:

(1) search the title of the journal in the library OPAC;
(2) search the title of the journal in the library online journal list;
(3) ask a reference librarian for help in identifying a full-text database that may contain online access to the journal; or
(4) ask a librarian how to gain access to a journal through another library that may subscribe to it in print, electronically or via a database.

Also, libraries sometimes purchase access to a proprietary version of an online index (such as ERIC) that links through seamlessly to another full-text database containing the article. One such publisher-vendor is Cambridge Scientific Abstracts ("CSA"). CSA's proprietary software will also link through directly to the library's OPAC, so that a user can determine whether the library has a print or electronic subscription to the journal. To access this seamless and efficient processing of information, you will need to be using a library terminal or have authenticated patron access to the library's information system from your home PC.

ERIC Documents. As indicated above, ERIC is the leading online index/database in the field of education. ERIC indexes not only journal articles, but also "ERIC documents" (cited as "ED123456"). ERIC documents are studies, reports, lesson plans, book chapters - in other words, material other than journal articles.

ERIC maintains a full-text database of documents from 1996-present, downloadable for a fee. ERIC documents prior to 1996 are available in microfiche at various depositories around the U.S. and the world and for a fee directly from ERIC. For a list of depositories, see the Directory of ERIC Resource Collections at (http://oeri4.ed.gov/BASISDB/EROD/eric/SF). These depository libraries will also likely license online access to the 1996-present documents, as well as own the microfiche version of all ERIC documents. Therefore, as an on-site or authenticated user, you may be able to obtain an ERIC document at a depository library for merely a printing charge (from either the library's PC or a microfiche reader). This means, that although a search via ERIC will tell you that the documents are available for a fee (upwards of $10 per document), they may be available free or for a low printing fee at a nearby depository library. Check the Directory above to find a depository library near you.

5. Finding Lesson Plans.

Both free and fee-based archives of lesson plans continue to grow on the Internet. One recommended fee-based lesson plan archive/database is that of the Krause Curriculum Development Library at www.kcdlonline.com. As are so many fee-based databases, KCDLonline may be available at a local academic or public library in your area, so be sure to ask a librarian or check the OPAC to see whether it's part of a nearby online collection.

ERIC has taken the lead for free archives and encourages contributions from teachers. See the ERIC Lesson Plan webpage at http://ericir.syr.edu/Virtual/Lessons/. Frequently, subject-

specialty teacher organizations, subject specific professional associations, and government agencies post lesson plans on their websites. Also, state and county education departments post lesson plans. Although laced with advertisements, some commercial sites for teachers provide many free lesson plans. The following is a sampling of a few of the many lesson plan websites freely accessible:

- NASA's educational support website. http://education.nasa.gov/.
- Los Angeles County Office of Education lesson plan website. http://teams.lacoe.edu/documentation/places/lessons.html.
- Index to Internet Lesson Plan Sites for K-12 Teachers. http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/lesson.htm.
- Lesson plan page.com. www.lessonplanspage.com.

6. Finding the Best WebSites.

The best education-related websites are those produced by libraries, schools and universities, nonprofit organizations, institutes and government entities. These sites provide the most unbiased, well-researched and accessible collections of weblinks. The managers of these sites are experts in the field and have applied their expertise in selecting and editing the site contents. Commercial dot-com websites can be well-done, but frequently they link primarily to other profit-motivated sites and are littered with advertisements.

When to Use a Search Engine. Internet search engines (such as Google) are the most efficient tool if you are searching a proper name, the partial name of an organization, an author, or website name. When performing a more general search on a topic, frequently search engines produce too many or too few results or results that have no relevance to the query entered.

When you are browsing a topic, a cumulative topic-specific website, or "megasite," that contains a sitemap, search engine or table of contents will provide the best results. Ask a knowledgeable librarian, go to a subject-specialty library, or ask an expert in the field to identify a cumulative "megasite" on your topic. See the Top Education Megasites list below.

Note that the web resources found in these "megasite" collections differ from the "hidden web" of fee-based, subject specific database collections found only through a library that has already paid the fee. Some of the "megasites" may point to "hidden web" resources, as well as to a collection of free weblinks; however, the "hidden web" resources are only available via a library or for a fee.

Education Megasites. At the top of the list for excellent, data-filled and article rich education megasites, the federal and state government sites prevail. For example, the U.S. Department of Education website (http://www.ed.gov/index.jsp) provides a wealth of valuable links to nearly all aspects of the field. Universities with Schools of Education that cater to the needs of faculty and students researchers also produce very comprehensive websites about certain topics. The University of California Berkeley (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EDP/)

and Teachers College Columbia University Millbank Memorial Library (http://lweb.tc.columbia.edu/) and Harvard University School of Education (http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~library/web-links.html) libraries are three such excellent cumulative sites.

Ten of the top education megasites that are freely accessible on the web are:

- ERIC (Ask ERIC). (http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric/)
- U.S. Department of Education. (http://www.ed.gov/index.jsp)
- National Center for Education Statistics. (http://nces.ed.gov/)
- Ed Data (California site with national comparisons). (http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.asp)
- Gateway to Educational Materials. (http://www.thegateway.org/)
- Model School Library. (http://lweb.tc.columbia.edu/cs/modelsl/collections.htm)
- National Education Association. (http://www.nea.org/)
- University of California Berkeley Education Psychology Library. (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EDP/)
- Millbank Internet Reference Collection. (http://lweb.tc.columbia.edu/rr/irc/)
- Harvard School of Education Gutman Library Weblinks. (http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~library/web-links.html)

7. Finding Conference Proceedings.

There are two primary sources for finding conference proceedings. First, search a large academic library catalog, such as the one at your state university. If the university has an academic department specializing in the field that is the subject of the conference, it is likely to have the proceedings in its collection.

Second, search the website of the organization sponsoring the conference. Frequently, the organizational sponsor, such as a professional organization, publishes conference proceedings on its website. Check the publications or library link on the website to see if it is available online. If the document is not available online, contacting the organization by phone or mail may enable you to obtain a print copy.

If the proceedings are not available from a library or the sponsor, and you are searching for a particular paper and know the paper's author and the author's affiliation, contact the author directly. Once again, a reference librarian can help you locate the author using one of many directories found in the reference area of a university or public library or through its online reference resources.

8. Finding Media Resources.

Finding films, CDs, videotapes and music can be more challenging than finding books and journal articles. First check an academic or public library OPAC, searching for "films or video" and the topic of your search, such as science or mathematics. Also, ask the reference librarian if there are any directories or reference books that would identify films or media.

An online search for reviews using a journal index/database may also prove fruitful. Educational journals frequently have review columns for new books and media resources in the field. Check the list of journals indexed in the ERIC database (http://ericir.syr.edu/Eric), or search an academic library's catalog for a list of educational journals.

9. Finding Studies and Reports.

Studies and reports in education may be available in a public or an academic library's collection, so search the OPAC or ask the librarian. Studies and reports may sometimes be found online. If you have specific information about a report, such as the title, publisher or author, a simple Google search (www.google.com) may produce the report. If not, search the publisher's website. For example, since the White House published the Bush Administration's "No Child Left Behind" report, search the White House website. See the UCB EDP Library website for a small collection of online studies and reports freely available on the web (www.lib.berkeley.edu/EDP/reports.html).

Government Reports and Studies. Many reports are produced and published online by governmental entities. Since all levels of government publish and maintain archives of their documents online, searching the entity's website often produces good results. If you do not know which governmental entity, search the level of government's main online portal. For example, search FirstGov (www.firstgov.gov) for federal documents. Or search, your state website if it is a document produced by a state government (such as Hawaii's website at http://www.state.hi.us/). A list of good federal, national and international websites can be found on the UCB EDP Library website at (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EDP/government.html).

Reports of Organizations, Institutes and Professional Organizations. Organizations produce and publish thousands of reports and studies annually. Often they are not published in academic journals or as books or monographs, and libraries may not collect them either in their print version or, if available, in an online version. Librarians refer to this type of document as "grey literature." Frequently, books or peer-reviewed journal articles cite grey literature. Though challenging to find, the Internet has made finding grey literature easier. A simple Google search (www.google.com) may produce the report, if the title or author is known. If not, search the publisher's (i.e, the organization, institute, professional organization) website for a list of publications available from the organization. Often a list of publications will be available online. Frequently, an online version may be available for downloading either free or for a fee.

10. Finding Statistics and Data.

For statistics in the social sciences, seek the assistance of a reference librarian. Many good summaries exist in print and may be found in an academic or public library's reference collection. Also, governmental agencies produce statistics, so their websites are rich with data. Frequently however, government search engines are not as effective and efficient as commercially designed search engines. Many private information vendors therefore have taken data produced by the government and re-packaged it to make it easier to search and find. See the UCB EDP Library statistics page at

(http://library.berkeley.edu/EDP/statistics.html) for a list of statistics resources in education. Several of the top statistics sites include:

National Center for Educational Statistics. (http://nces.ed.gov/)
U.S. Census Bureau-Education.
(http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/education.html)
Lexis-Nexis Statistics. Fee-based at lexisnexis.com or available at a library.
Ed Data. (http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.asp)
The Common Core of Data. (http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/)
GovStats. Information on U.S. Counties (Oregon State Univ.).
(http://govinfo.kerr.orst.edu/counties/summary.html)

Also, several excellent CD ROM products exist that make searching much easier. Because these are quite expensive, they are likely to be found only at a large university library or in special corporate libraries. Consult with your state university's government documents librarian for specialized help in finding statistics.

11. Finding Laws and Regulations.

Many free online sources exist for finding laws and regulations relating to the field of education, because laws and regulations are generally public documents. See the UCB EDP Library government documents website at http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EDP/government.html for links to national, federal and international free government and legal websites.

Researching the law is a specialized art, so it is best to consult with a law librarian when pursuing the legal aspect of a question. Check your local county law library and ask a law librarian to assist you. Of course, if you are dealing with a legal matter it is best to see an attorney. The leading legal databases are Westlaw.com and Lexis.com. Both are available for rather high fees on the Internet. Because of the expense, the assistance of a law librarian will be your best bet in navigating the many online resources. Some of the top free megasites for researching law include law school library sites; county law library websites; local, county, state and federal government sites; and a few commercial websites. Among the best are:

- Thomas - Legislative website of the Library of Congress. (http://thomas.loc.gov/).
- Legal Information Institute, sponsored by Cornell Law School. (http://www.law.cornell.edu/).
- U.S. Government Printing Office. (http://www.access.gpo.gov/#info).
- Findlaw.com. (www.findlaw.com).

12. Evaluating Material.

There are five keys to evaluating any resource whether found in an online source or in print: (1) relevancy; (2) currency; (3) authority; (4) source; (5) bias or perspective. Ask yourself the following questions when determining the quality of literature found.

(1) **Relevancy**. Does the source answer your questions adequately? If you are using an online source, did you get too many or too few results? If too many, your topic may be too broad. If too few, your topic may be too narrow. Which keywords or subject terms worked well to find the best results? As indicated above, use a thesaurus to brainstorm words and phrases related to your topic. Combine them in different ways in your query to elicit the best results.

(2) **Currency**. How recently was the material published? Do you need material that is recent or with a historic time period perspective? For example, to learn more about what it was like to fight in the Civil War, you may want reports of soldiers written in the nineteenth century. If however, you want the latest laws and regulations passed, you will need the most up-to-date information available.

(3) **Authority**. What are the author's credentials? Degrees? Affiliations? Is the author an expert on the topic? If a journal article, is the article peer-reviewed? This is one of the most troubling aspects of using online resources. Anyone can publish anything on the Internet, without any editorial or critical review. Material found via the "hidden web" has generally been subjected to some kind of critical or editorial process and therefore are more reliable. Whether found on the Internet or on the "hidden web", one should still consider whether the author is knowledgeable about the field in which he is publishing.

(4) **Source**. What is the reputation of the source, i.e., the publisher of the journal, book, magazine or report? Is the subject a specialty of the publication or publisher? For example, an article about attention deficit disorder published in a peer-reviewed psychology journal will have more weight than a news article about ADD in a local paper or popular magazine.

(5) **Bias/Perspective**. Does the source, the book, or the article demonstrate a particular bias or perspective, such as liberal or conservative, ethnic or universalist, young or old. Is the book or article trying to prove one side of the story? Or is it objective, taking a look at both or all sides of an issue? For example, and article in *The Economist* will take the conservative perspective on a political issue, while an article in *The Nation* will take the perspective of the left, and one in *The New Republic* will present a liberal viewpoint. The *New York Times* may take the middle ground on the issue, describing an issue from several viewpoints.

Conclusion.

Ask a librarian for help throughout the research process. The world of online resources is constantly changing. Websites change rapidly. New "hidden web" resources become available weekly. Resources previously available may suddenly vanish. Journal articles, books, conference proceedings, reports, media resources increase daily. Research is an exciting process, though time-consuming. Do not be daunted by the volume and complexity of information available. Let the vastness of knowledge inspire you to learn.

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